

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

North Inland Crisis Residential Facility

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of San Diego is circulating for public review a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the North Inland Crisis Residential Facility. This draft Mitigated Negative Declaration can be reviewed at the Department of General Services (DGS), 5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, San Diego, California 92123 and at the public libraries listed below. Comments on this draft Mitigated Negative Declaration must be sent to the DGS address listed above and should reference the North Inland Crisis Residential Facility. The document is available on line http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/general_services/CEQA/CEQA.html also be made available electronically by contacting marc.cass@sdcounty.ca.gov.

The project is a North Inland Crisis Residential Facility to be located on a portion of the HHSA –North Inland Campus (600-620 East Valley Parkway) that would include the demolition of a 3,060 square-foot North Inland Public Health Center (606 East Valley Parkway), a 22,080 square-foot Family Resource Center (620 East Valley Parkway) and a 13,010 square-foot Regional Administrative Office of HHSA (600 East Valley Parkway) and the construction of a 6,500 square-foot, 14-bed mental health facility to be located at 606 East Valley Parkway within the City of Escondido in the North Inland Region of San Diego County. All three functions will move to a new leased location at 649 W. Mission Avenue. The facility would be built on a 0.53-acre portion of the 2.75-acre lot with the remaining land to either be used for another public purpose or considered surplus public land and sold. The facility would be staffed by approximately 15 persons including a psychiatrist for the management of medication.

The County's Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA) program currently has six (6) sites throughout the County that provides 24 hour crisis residential services 365 days a year for adults ages 18 and over with acute and serious mental illness for stays up to 9 days. This includes individuals with a co-occurring substance use condition who reside in San Diego County. The program provides integrated mental health and alcohol and drug services. The facility would allow the County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) to increase their capacity and access to community based mental health crisis services that are focused on wellness, resiliency, and recovery oriented in the least restrictive manner possible. The program supports a social rehabilitation model, which is designed to enhance an individual's social connection with their family and/or community so they can move back into the community and reduce the risk of inpatient hospitalization. The program aims to offer an environment where they are supported as they examine and evaluate their own life experience.

The proposed architectural style of the new facility would be designed to resemble a large residential structure so as to provide a home like setting for the patients. The configuration of the structure would likely be u-shaped or the structure would surround a courtyard in order to provide staff a central vantage point to allow observation of the entire facility. Adequate parking would be provided on site as surface parking.

This draft Mitigated Negative Declaration can also be reviewed at the Escondido Public Library located at 239 S Kalmia Street in Escondido. For additional information, please contact Marc Cass at (858) 694-2047 or by e-mail at marc.cass@sdcounty.ca.gov.

The site is not included on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code including, but not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, and hazardous waste disposal sites, and the information in the Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement required under subdivision (f) of that section.

Comments on this proposed draft Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received no later than November 18th, 2014 (a 20-day public review period).